



Teaching Children Excellence

For Immediate Release

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## **National Dance Institute of New Mexico Finds a Home in Historic Building**

*State Board of Finance Votes YES to Leasing Hiland Theater*

**Albuquerque, NM (January 15, 2009)** – The State Board of Finance voted yes to leasing the Hiland Theater to the National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI-NM). The historic landmark will provide a permanent home for NDI-NM and once again bring life to the neighborhood as a vibrant community space. Its central location gives access to students across New Mexico to continue to be positively impacted by the program.

The Hiland Theater will undergo major renovations to be fully functional for the students and the programs NDI-NM offers. NDI-NM will be responsible for undertaking the responsibility of renovating all three spaces in the Hiland Theater. The estimated renovations will cost \$8.5 million and include building a theater, offices and studios.

“The prospect of leasing the Hiland Theater was an opportunity we had to pursue,” said Russell Baker, executive director of NDI-NM. “It is an honor to call this historic theater our home. We look forward to the renovations and more importantly moving forward with the expansion of programs that benefit New Mexico students and our community.”

NDI-NM’s future plans for the Hiland will benefit more than just their organization. The permanent home provided by the Hiland will allow NDI-NM to undertake more collaborations and mission-based partnerships.

Currently NDI-NM offers residents of Bernalillo County over \$500,000 in services. This figure will triple once the Hiland Theater is occupied. This expansion is the main initiative of the NDI-NM Long Range Plan, and carries the full backing of the Board of Directors.

The primary use of the Hiland Theater will be to provide much-needed space to offer after-school education and instruction for students ages 3-18 who reside in the county. The Hiland will also serve as a local base of operations, and a central location for training programs in the NDI methodology. In short, the Hiland will allow NDI-NM to address the ever-increasing demand for NDI-NM programs in Albuquerque and around the state.

### **About National Dance Institute of New Mexico**

National Dance Institute of New Mexico is founded with the knowledge that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children. The purpose of our distinctive programs is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives. In 1997 NDI-NM began serving Albuquerque Public Schools. Currently, 16 Albuquerque Public Schools participate in NDI-NM’s dance programs, 18 are on the Albuquerque waiting list and 83 other schools are on a statewide waiting list. All outreach programs are offered free of charge to students and their families. In addition to public

school programs, NDI-NM operates a 33,000 square foot facility, The Dance Barns, in Santa Fe, NM. [www.ndi-nm.org](http://www.ndi-nm.org)

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